

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A Flexible membrane ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one thin layer ~~(6)~~ wherein a plurality of notches ~~(2)~~ are formed, pressing points ~~(3)~~ for mechanical actuating elements ~~(9)~~ being located between the notches, the actuating elements being designed to locally deform the membrane ~~(1)~~ with which they come into contact at the pressing points.
2. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches ~~(2)~~ pass through the entire thickness of the membrane ~~(1)~~.
3. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches ~~(2)~~ are arranged periodically in the plane of the membrane ~~(1)~~.
4. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches ~~(2)~~ are parallel to one another.
5. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising first and second sub-assemblies of notches arranged in different directions in the plane of the membrane ~~(1)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches (2a) of the first sub-assembly are substantially perpendicular to the notches (2b) of the second sub-assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the arrangement of the notches (2) is periodic.

8. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches (2) are staggered with respect to the pressing points (3).

9. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches (2) are arranged in the form of lines and columns each alternately comprising first notches (2a) in a first direction and second notches (2b) in a second direction.

10. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second direction is substantially orthogonal to the first direction.

11. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~one of claims 9 and 10~~ claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a pitch (p3) separating two adjacent first notches (2a) of a line is substantially equal to twice the pitch (p1) separating two adjacent pressing points (3) in the second direction, and that the pitch (p4) separating two adjacent second notches (2b) of a column is substantially equal to twice the pitch (p2) separating two adjacent pressing points (3) in the first direction.

12. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches (2) are linear, T-shaped, H-shaped or in the form of crenelations.

13. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the notches (2) comprise broadened ends of substantially circular cross-section.

14. (Currently Amended) Membrane according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the membrane (1) constitutes a data recording medium designed to cooperate with a two-dimensional array of microtips (9) coming into contact with the membrane (1) at said pressing points ~~(3)~~.